

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a nucleic acid polymer comprising contacting the polymer with a conjugate comprising a nucleic acid tag molecule and a nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme,
allowing the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme to bind to the polymer non-specifically, and
allowing the nucleic acid tag molecule to bind specifically to the polymer, and
determining a pattern of binding of the conjugate to the polymer,
wherein the nucleic acid binding enzyme binds to the polymer without cleavage, and is not detected based on its catalytic activity.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme to translocate along the polymer.
- 3.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is DNA or RNA.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule is selected from the group consisting of a peptide nucleic acid (PNA), a locked nucleic acid (LNA), a DNA, an RNA, a bisPNA clamp, a pseudocomplementary PNA, and a LNA-DNA co-polymer.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule is 5-50 residues in length.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule and the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme are covalently linked to each other.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule and the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme are conjugated using a linker molecule.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 1, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a DNA polymerase, an RNA polymerase, a DNA repair enzyme, a helicase, a nuclease, and a ligase.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 1, wherein the enzyme lacks the ability to modify the nucleic acid tag molecule or the polymer.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule is labeled with a detectable moiety.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme is labeled with a detectable moiety.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule is labeled with a first detectable moiety, and the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme is labeled with a second detectable moiety.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is labeled with a detectable moiety.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the detectable moiety is a backbone specific label.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pattern of binding of the conjugate to the polymer is determined using a linear polymer analysis system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the linear polymer analysis system comprises exposing the polymer to a station to produce a signal arising from the binding of the conjugate to the polymer, and detecting the signal using a detection system.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pattern of binding of the conjugate to the polymer is determined using fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH).

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the detectable moiety is [[selected from the group consisting of an electron spin resonance molecule,]] a fluorescent molecule[[, a chemiluminescent molecule, a radioisotope, an enzyme substrate, a biotin molecule, an avidin molecule, an electrical charged transferring molecule, a semiconductor nanocrystal, a semiconductor nanoparticle, a colloid gold nanocrystal, a ligand, a microbead, a magnetic bead, a paramagnetic particle, a quantum dot, a chromogenic substrate, an affinity molecule, a protein, a peptide, a nucleic acid, a carbohydrate, an antigen, a hapten, an antibody, an antibody fragment, and a lipid]].

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the detectable moiety is detected using [[a detection system selected from the group consisting of an electron spin resonance detection system, a charge coupled device (CCD) detection system,]] a fluorescent detection system[[, an electrical detection system, a photographic film detection system, a chemiluminescent detection system, an enzyme detection system, an atomic force microscopy (AFM) detection system, a scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) detection system, an optical detection system, a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) detection system, a near field detection system, and a total internal reflection (TIR) detection system]].

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a non in vitro amplified nucleic acid molecule.
25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule is not an antisense molecule.
26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule does not hybridize to bacterial or viral specific sequences.
27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid tag molecule is labeled with an agent.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the agent is capable of cleaving a nucleic acid molecule.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the agent is a photocleaving agent.
30. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the agent is able to modify a nucleic acid molecule.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme is detected indirectly.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme is detected indirectly using an antibody or an antibody fragment specific for the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme.
33. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 19, wherein the linear polymer analysis system is a single polymer analysis system.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 1, wherein the pattern of binding of the conjugate to the polymer is determined using a method selected from the group consisting of Gene Engine™, optical mapping, and DNA combing.

35.-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a nucleic acid polymer comprising:
generating optical radiation of a known wavelength to produce a localized radiation spot;
passing a polymer through a microchannel;
irradiating the polymer at the localized radiation spot;
sequentially detecting radiation resulting from interaction of the polymer with the optical radiation at the localized radiation spot; and
analyzing the polymer based on the detected radiation,
wherein the polymer is bound to a conjugate of a nucleic acid tag molecule and a nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme,
wherein the nucleic acid binding enzyme binds to the polymer without cleavage, and is not detected based on its catalytic activity.

69.-90. (Cancelled)

91. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a nucleic acid molecule, comprising:
exposing a nucleic acid molecule to a conjugate of a nucleic acid tag molecule and a nucleic acid binding enzyme,
allowing the nucleic acid binding enzyme to bind to the nucleic acid molecule,
allowing the nucleic acid tag molecule to bind to the nucleic acid molecule in a sequence-specific manner, and
determining a pattern of binding of the conjugate to the nucleic acid molecule,
wherein the nucleic acid binding enzyme binds to the polymer without cleavage, and is not detected based on its catalytic activity.

92.-124. (Cancelled)

125. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a nucleic acid polymer comprising contacting the polymer with a conjugate comprising a nucleic acid tag molecule and a nucleic acid binding agent,
allowing the nucleic acid binding agent to bind to the polymer, and
allowing the nucleic acid tag molecule to bind specifically to the polymer,
wherein the nucleic acid binding agent is selected from the group consisting of a DNA repair enzyme, a helicase, [[a nuclease,]] and a ligase.

126. (Currently Amended) A method for labeling a nucleic acid polymer comprising contacting the polymer with a conjugate comprising a nucleic acid tag molecule and a nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme,
allowing the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme to bind to and translocate along the polymer, and
allowing the nucleic acid tag molecule to bind specifically to the polymer thereby labeling the polymer,
wherein the nucleic acid binding enzyme binds to the polymer without cleavage, and is not detected based on its catalytic activity.

127. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 126, wherein the nucleic acid binding [[agent]] enzyme binds to the polymer non-specifically.

128. (Original) The method of claim 126, further comprising determining a pattern of binding of the conjugate to the polymer.

129. (New) A method for analyzing a nucleic acid polymer comprising contacting the polymer with a conjugate comprising a nucleic acid tag molecule and a nucleic acid binding enzyme,

allowing the nucleic acid binding enzyme to bind to the polymer, and
allowing the nucleic acid tag molecule to bind specifically to the polymer,
wherein the nucleic acid binding enzyme is a nuclease that binds to the polymer without
cleavage, and is not detected based on its catalytic activity.

130. (New) A method for analyzing a nucleic acid polymer comprising
contacting the polymer with a conjugate comprising a nucleic acid tag molecule and a
nucleic acid binding enzyme,
allowing the nucleic acid binding enzyme to bind to the polymer non-specifically, and
allowing the nucleic acid tag molecule to bind specifically to the polymer, and
determining a pattern of binding of the conjugate to the polymer based on detection of the
nucleic acid tag molecule and not the nucleic acid binding enzyme,
wherein the nucleic acid binding enzyme binds to the polymer without cleavage.